



CITY OF PUYALLUP

Office of the Mayor

May 25, 2011

Ms. Lura J. Powell, Chair, and Commission Members
Washington State Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Chairwoman Powell & Commission Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Puyallup City Council, providing you with our community's perspectives and suggestions as you go about the work of redrawing Congressional District and Legislative District boundary lines. We would very much like to continue having Puyallup served by the 9th Congressional District and the 25th Legislative District.

One of your guidelines is for the Commission to recognize political subdivision lines and communities of interest. In Puyallup's case, we are a major employment, residential, arts, and cultural focal point for East Pierce County, and we have two designated jobs centers (downtown and South Hill). Puyallup has a long and proud tradition as the centerpiece of the 25th Legislative District and we would like to see that continue. Puyallup has been served for nearly two decades by the 9th Congressional District, and we would like to see that relationship continue.

Congressional Districts

We believe Puyallup has been well-served by the 9th Congressional District and we are a geographic center point for the district, which stretches from Thurston County on the south to King County on the north end. We would ask that you continue to keep Puyallup as a major community of interest in the 9th. Understanding you have the difficult task of drawing a new Congressional District, we would ask that at the very least, you do what you can to avoid having Puyallup be simply a tiny corner or bit part of a new or existing district.

Legislative Districts

As we noted, Puyallup has a long tradition of being an epicenter of the 25th. In fact, many Puyallup residents have served in the Legislature in leadership roles and with great distinction – members such as Frank “Buster” Brouillet, Dan Grimm, and Marc Gaspard, just to name a few.

The City of Puyallup has traditionally worked well with all of its state legislators, regardless. It has helped to have our members paying close attention to their central city,

and we have always felt that legislators of both parties have provided Puyallup with an open door.

It would appear that Puyallup would continue to be a central part of the 25th under any redistricting plan, that western edges of the 25th could be redrawn into Tacoma-area districts, and that the 25th could be impacted as districts to the north, east, and south “shed” population. We have heard both from state legislators who want more of the South Hill drawn into the 25th, and want Sumner drawn into the 25th. As a “Valley City,” and as a City with close ties to the South Hill, we see commonalities in both scenarios and could work with either one.

In closing, we would repeat our request that Puyallup continue to be a centerpiece of the 25th Legislative District, and served by the 9th Congressional District.

We thank you in advance for your work and your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy R. Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathy R. Turner
Mayor, City of Puyallup